WASHINGTON. "LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE I

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1863 THE EMANCIPATION EDICT.

The reader will find in another part of to-day's Intelligencer a Proclamation of the President of the United States, issued on the 1st instant, in pursuance of the purpose announced in his Proclaation under date of last September 22d.

In this paper it will be seen that Mr. Lincoln, by virtue of the power which he assumes to be vested in him as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and Government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary "war measure" for suppressing said rebellion, orders and designates" certain "States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are in rebellion against the United States." These States and parts of States are Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except certain parishes designated,) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, with the exception of certain designated counties in the latter. In these States and parts of States the President "orders and declares that all persons held as slaves are and henceforward shall be free : and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognise and maintain the freedom of such persons.

The President further enjoins upon the people so declared to be free "to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence," and "recommends to them that in all cases, when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages." finally "declares and makes known" that liberated slaves of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States " to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service."

We have on many previous occasions so fully announced our deliberate opinions with regard to the legal quality and the practical utility of such an edict as the President has now actually uttered, that we might hold ourselves justly absolved from the task of giving any renewed treatment to the topics it suggests. And if we proceed to offer any observations under this head, it is rather from a sense of propriety due to the opportunity of the present publication, than because of any necessity laid upon us to discuss the edict in either its principles or its probable effects.

In regard to its principles we have only to say as we said in advance of its publication, that, according to our view of constitutional law, the form of this proclamation is unfortunate, because the theory of Executive power on which it proceeds involves a political solecism of the gravest character, and one which, without at all sacrificing the substance of his decree, the President might have avoided by adopting a different style of language.

We do not deny that the President, as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, may, in time of armed rebellion against the authority and Government of the United States, and while conducting war on slaveholding territory, rightfully liberate slaves, so far as may be necessary to the success of his military operations. And the measure of his power in this direction may be admitted to be commensurate with the military necessity which he acts, and with the extent to which he can practically employ in services auxiliary to his operations the slaves whom he actually liberates.

But it is denied by many (and we are of their number) that the Executive department of the Government has the right to " order and declare" that slaves now held to service by virtue of certain State laws shall on a day fixed be "then, thenceforward, and forever free." For this style of language proceeds on the assumption that the Executive branch of the Government is, because of the enlarged powers conferred upon it in the name of " military necessity," endowed with legitimate anthority to repeal or suspend the laws of certain States as respects slavery. It implies that the President has a paramount de jure control over the law of slavery, insomuch that he could retain that law in its validity and in its obligation on the slave from the 22d of last September to the 1st of January, 1863, and unbind its sanctions after the

latter date. As we understand the matter, there is a great difference between the assumption of this prerogative right, which is legislative in its nature, and the emancipation of slaves as the necessary incident of actual military operations, or as the consequence of legal conviction for trason. It is, as we have already said, to enact a political solecism for the "Executive Government" to declare slaves legelly free where the President has and can have no legal jurisdiction over the law of slavery. It is to cerry into one department the style and language belonging exclusively to another sphere of political

A single estation from the recent annual message of the President will serve to show the incongruity as well as inefficacy of this "war measure." In that message, arguing in favor of his project for emancipation with compensation to owners, Mr Lincoln said :

"The liberation of the slaves is the destruction of pro-perty—property acquired by descent or by purchase, the same as any other property."

It will hardly be pretended that any mere words of the President, however selemnly uttered, can avail to do that which it is not in the power of words to do- " to destroy property." As in the case of "other property," so in that of "slave property:" if it be "destroyed," it must be by the actual application of force and not by the promulgation of a decree. And the force is as vigorous without the decree as with it.

Where the President has no control over the law of any relation, his sole authority over that relation must result from actual force applied under stress of military necesity. And this notal force may be legitimately applied wherever or whenever it is necessary to enforce the laws. If, then, the President, instead of assuming to dec'are treat all slaves as free, so far they should come statement of the great expectations founded on the any vessel she finds too strong to engage.

under the Federal sway, he would have avoided the | proclamation by some of the President's friends, objection which justly lies against a mere edict of in advance of its publication. We cite from the emandipation. Those who love the Union better | Chicago Tribune : than slavery may be prepared to see slavery overthrown wherever it stands in the way of national authority, but they are not prepared to admit that the President can, by the breath of his mouth, make or unmake the law of freedom and bondage. For to declare slaves free does not lie within the province of the Executive Department of the National Government on any theory of the President's duty, whether as commander-in-chief of the army and navy or as a civil ruler, nor can he consistently exercise this legislative function any more in a time of war than of peace. But to make slaves free may not only rightfully, but must almost necessarily be the incident of his Executive duties in conducting large military operations on slaveholding territory. As to the utility of a "war measure" which ap-

plies only to territory where the Executive Government has to-day no power to enforce the decree, we have little to say. Indeed little needs to be said, for the President has made it plain on the face of the proclamation that, considered merely as a proclamation, the paper is a dead letter. The only vital part of the document is to be found in the leclaration that "the Executive Government, including the military and naval authorities, will reognise and maintain the freedom" of the persons proclaimed to be free. And this part of the paper derives all its vitality from the force that stands behind it; not at all from the words that precede it. And all the freedom that shall accrue to the slave under this proclamation will result from the law of force, and not at all from the declaratory portion of the President's decree. And in this view, which is self-evident to every mind, we are not at all surprised to learn, as we do, that the President, in his own private opinion, anticipates little, if any, utility from the proclamation of freedom, considered as a "war measure." War measures depend for their effectiveness on something stronger than words, and the "war measure" which shall actually emancipate a single slave would be just as effective without a proclamation as with one. And in so saying it would be impossible for us to set the practical inutility of this paper in a clearer

But, while this is our own view of the probabl inefficacy of this document, we are glad that it affords an opportunity of finally testing the sagacity of the political counsellors who have persistently clamored for such a paper "war measure." The have predicted from its simple utterance the mos signal results. We cite a few of the promises on whose fulfilment these prognosticators have staked their reputation for wisdom, and to the responsibility for which we shall henceforth continue to hold their authors.

In the month of July last, when the agitation for a "proclamation of freedom" was at its height, the following representations were made on the subject to the New York Evening Pest by a correspondent who had formerly lived in Virginia; and who wrote after having, as he said, "conversed with an old Virginia acquaintance, a recent refu gee from Richmond, who for the last year had been a member of the rebel Gen. Longstreet's family and who, though a man of color, seems to under stand the condition of affairs at the South much better than some of our Generals." What he wrote under this head was as follows:

"How strange that our great'men and rulers should not see that the stomach is the weak point of the enemy! He will have little stomach to fight the bad fight of rebeliion n au empty stemach. When the great words of liberty and freedom shall be sounded from the high-places of power like a trumpet through the land, the knell of the rebellion will be telled.

But we are asked how the negroes on the plantatio are to be informed of such a decree of the Government How little do those who ask such questions know of th negro character! The negroes are familiar with eve-swamp and mountain pass, through glen and forest, and night, guided by the stare, the gospel of freedom would to circulated from cabin to cabin almost with telegraph swiftness. The plough would stand still in the furrow, the ripened grain would remain unharvested, the cause would not be milked, the dinners would not be cooked, but one wilked, the dinners would not be cooked, but one un versal hall-hijah of glory to G.d, echoed from every valle, and hill-top of rebeldom, would sound the speedy doom o

Reproducing these representations in our column on the 31st of last July, we wrote as follows:

"There is one aspect of the question which rather is lices us to wish that the President might find it com patible with his convictions of public duty to issue sor such raper as these complainants ask at his hands. We well assured that it would prove brutam fulnen, but i demonstrated in fficiency might perhaps open the eyes o amiable and sanguine philanthropists, who, un'il the experi ment is tried, will continue to credit such representations "If the 'stemach is the weak point of the rebels,' and proclamation of freedom is going to put an end to al ulinary operations in the 'Confederate States,' we shall onquer a peace none the less signal for being blood ass. What would this be but bringing the blockade

less. What would this be but bringing the blockade home to every rebel's business in bowels? When it was hoped by Mr. Perceval to bring the French to reason by keeping them without thubarb a d calomel, Sidney Smith remarked on the sublime speciacle suggested by the thought that no purge could be taken between the Weser and Garenne, and that in consequence of the British Orders in Council the bowels of mankind were locked up for fourteen eggrees of latitude. Without castor-oil he thought the French might for some menths, to be sure, carry on a linearing war, but what could they do without on a lingering war, but what could they do without bark? Would a people live under a Government where and monial powders could not be procured? Would they bear the loss of mercury, or persist in a war which laid an embargo on Godfrey's cordial?

"But Mr. Perceval's plan of conquest and constipe was nothing as compared with that now commended the adeption of the President. At his word the plous told, would stand still in the Southern farrow; ripened grain (except that already garnered for the wan of a proclamation to prevent) would remain unharvested while vaccine udders throughout the South would, for lack of ebon hands to tend the cowpen, be doesed to stay their

The President, in the proclamation before us has evidently taken these prophets at their word. But that too much destitution may not ensue to their masters from the sudden liberation of the slaves, he considerately exhorts the latter to work as usual for the former, but at " reasonable wages. Why the President should not have ordered their former masters to give "reasonable wages" to the emancipated slaves, as well as "recommended" the latter to take no more, we are unable to see, for it appears to us that the duty of each party in this respect is reciprocal, and that the President's power to effect his object is the same in the case of the one as of the other. It remains to be seen whether this one sided injunction will be respected by the "loyal blacks" in the interest of the "rebels" who were once their masters, but who have ceased to be such by proclamation of the President.

That they will cease to be such, by mere force and effect of the new proclamation, is a dogma to which the political theorists who favor this proclamation slaves free, had announced his purpose, in sonduct- are pledged. That our readers may be in a posiing the war within certain districts, to hold and tien to judge these theorists, we quote the following

"What good would a proclamation do? saks a pro slavery sheet. How would the slaves find it out? What benefit could accrue to the Union cause even if they did hear that the President had proclaimed them free? As many true patriots have been misled by this species of argument, we ask them to cous der a brief reply to the objections raised against the expedience or usefulness of such proclamation. against the expediency or usefulness of such proclamatio "First. How would the slaves find out that the Prodent had proclaimed their emancipation? We rep'y, that it would start from the outposts of our army. The news would start from the outposts of our army. The news would spread like wildfire. The secessionists themselves would scatter it by telegraph, and rail-car, and mail-coach. It would be discussed in every rebel newspaper, whiskey shop, and family. The slaves are in close and familiar contact with their masters and mistresses, and with the children of the masters. They would hear the news from ten thousand sources. The negroes of the Border States, of course, would at once know all about it, through the soldiers, who would make a point of falling them at the soldiers, who would make a point of falling them at the of course, would at once know all about it, through the soldiers, who would make a point of telling them at the earliest moment. The glorious news would spread from plantation to plantation at night, and be discussed by groups and gatherings of slaves in woods and awamps. When the intelligence reached New Orleans the negroes there would quickly spread it among the plantations of Louisiana and Texas. The gunboats would earther the news along the Mississippi from Cairo to Vicksburg, whence it would spread over Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. In truth, the slaves would learn that they had been proclaimed freemen by the President about as fast as their rebel masters.

"Second. What benefit would it be to the Union cause if

their rebel masters.

"Second. What benefit would it be to the Union cause if they did hear that the President had preclaimed their freedom? We answer, they would quit working for rebels. They would lay down the shovel and the hec. They would believe themselves to be freemen. They would deny the right of the claimant to their services any longer. They would refuse to work without wag.s. The whole system of slavery would become demoralized and undermined, and in the absence of the white males in the rebel army there would not be power amough to course them back there would not be power enough to coerce them back into bondage. Resistance of all sorts would be made. The slaves would feel that the law was on their side; that their late masters had no 1 nger a legal right to compe their rate masters had no I nger a legal right to compel their services; that a master who undertook to force a free man to put his neck in the yoke was doing an unlawful act—something which he had no legal authority to attempt. For it is important to keep the fact in mind that the slaves from their infancy have been taught to believe that they are the property of white men by law—that the law, not the arbitrary act of the master, makes them slaves. Being condemued to servitude by the union but all-powerful influence called the law, they have their necks to the yoke in silent obedience. The law is against them. They are the property of the claimant, as were their parents before them, by virtue of the law, and submit to their fate they must, there being no help for it, no hope of freedom. But hark! Massa Lincoln, the great supreme law-giver in the Union, proclaims them free men and women. The law which has bound the chains on their limbs is itself broken, swept away or submerged by the higher and more authorita-tive edict of the President of the whole Union, who prenounces them emancipated by virtue of an act of the Nation Legislature. The voice of the President would sound through out secessia louder than the seven thunders. In the ear and hearts of four millions of slaves it would carry with it the weight and authority of the voice of Jehovah speaking from the Mount to the children of Iarael in the wilder-

We are glad that the time has come when th udgment of those who made such predictions is to pass the ordeal of inevitable experiment. By the fulfilment or unfulfilment of these predictions their repute as political advisers must stand or fall. Having discharged ourselves of the duty we conceived ourselves to owe to our readers on this subject, and sincerely hoping that those who have counselled the step taken by the President may prove to have been wise where we have been foolish, it now remains for us only to await the progress of events, that judicial history may make up its solemn and irreversible awards in the premises. To that tribunal we remit the great decision.

We cannot, however, dismiss this subject from our present consideration without addressing a few words to loyal and conservative men, especially in the Border States. If there be any of their number who, because of the theoretical objections which they conceive to lie against the President's proclamation, msy be tempted to waver in their yalty to the Government, we would ask them to place. No errors of administration committed by and how his energies were chilled by the conthe latter can, under institutions like ours, afford sciousness that he could not rely on the any pretext for a factious, much less for a revolutionary or disorganizing agitation.

And if there be any who, because of their addic tion to the interests of slavery, may be disposed to falter in the support they have hitherto given to the Government, we would ask them too to reflect that in so far as the proclamation, in itself considered, can have any practical effect, it tends to protect slavery from the damage which it would otherwise receive under the pure and simple sway of military force. For the edict limits the "area of freedem," which it creates theoretically, by excluding in fact from the natural operation of this law of force the entire State of Tennessee. In spreading ever slavery in this State the mais of the Federal authority, the President has actually sought to protect so much of slave property from the destroying effect of military operations conducted on slaveholding territory.

It will hardly be held by practical minds that the slaves within our lines at Port Royal are any more free to-day, in consequence of the President' proclamation, than they were before it was promulged. And as the natural effect of all military operations at the South is to disturb the relation of slavery within the area of those operations, it is obvious that the most salient trait of the proclamation, considered as a proclamation, is to in dicate a wish on the part of the President to preserve slavery in Tennessee from what would otherwise be the legitimate incident or consequence of the war waged on the soil of that State Whatever, therefore, may be the theoretical objections to the edict of the President, we do not peregive that, while the war lasts, the patrons of slavery have any thing to complain of so far as regards the practical operation of the decree, which, if powerless to destroy slavery outside of the range of our armies, is expressly designed to shelter slavery in one of the slaveholding States which is still the theatre of military operations.

RELIEF FOR ENGLAND. The ship George Griswold, which is loading at New York with breadstuffs and provisions for the suffering poor f Lancashire, has received some seven thougand barrels

and be ready to sail probably inside of a week FROM CORINTH Reports from Corinth to Saturday night state that the arrison at that place were on half rations, but the defiency was supplied by foraging parties. Col. Lee, with a large cavalry force, was still in pursuit of Van Dore, Trains are running regularly from Corinth to Jackson, and

thence to Holly Springs. A Federal force of 3,000 had

left Trenton on a reconnoissance in the direction of the

of flour and a considerable quantity of corn, bacon, and

pork. She will take about four thou-and barrels more.

Tennessee river.

THE ALABAMA. It is stated that eighteen vessels of war are now engaged n the search for the Alabama, any one of which is a mate for her except in speed. The absence of speed, however, makes all the difference, Toe privateer can run away from

HISTORICAL PARALLELS.

Our readers may remember that some months ago, soon after the "Supplementary Despatche Correspondence, and Memoranda" of the late Duke of Wellington, as recently published by his son, had reached this country, we instanced the points of comparison between some of the military opera tions of Wellington in the Spanish peninsula and those which have marked the history of our own

A British reviewer, in commenting on this cam paign of Wellington, as disclosed in the papers de signated, and in the Gurwood series, observed that "it affords a proof how, in carrying on a protracted contest, a settled and constitutional power, even under very unfavorable conditions, may have ele ments of strength and of ultimate success which shall overthrow a military despotism, though guided by the highest individual genius." And the final success of this campaign was reached in spite of the great incapacity and administrative blunders frequently displayed by the British Government, who on several occasions lost the opportunities and wasted the resources of the nation, as they failed to appreciate the nature of the struggle or the skill and wisdom of Wellington. Lord Castlereagh, for instance, drew up a plan of campaign on paper, which had for its object the capture of Lisbon by isolated corps detached from England at different times, proceeding on different lines of operations and subject to a happy arrangement that brought three Generals-in-chief together to thwart each other at the decisive moment-1 strategic achievement which should "give pause" to such English critics as might otherwise feel tempted to remark invidiously on the infelicity of the military combinations devised in this city for the "capture of Jackson" in the valley of the Shenandoah after the expulsion of Gen. Danks from that region in the month of May last.

We observe that the lesson supposed to be taught by this interesting chapter in British history has been educed from the political and military annals of that time by Mr. Charles J. Stille, in the shape of a pamphlet entitled "How a Free People conduct a Long War." He draws a parallel between the conduct of the English people during the Peninsula war and the conduct of our people now. He finds that the English were by turns " unduly clated and depressed, that complaints of incompetence and mismanagement were constantly made and the Administration vehemently attacked, that the burdens of taxation were heavier, the finances more disordered, and the sacrifices made by the people greater than any thing of the kind known in any previous war."

Many citations are made for the purpose of show ing the despondency into which the people wer thrown by the frequent reverses that overtook the British arms in Spain. At one time, indeed, universal distrust seized the public mind; the clamors against the Cabinet and against the Generals in the field were violent and unintermitting; and nothing but the constancy of a few statesmen and of the great commander Wellington enabled the nation to persist in its designs. It was, doubtless, owing as much to political divisions at home as to the inherent difficulties of the undertaking, that the English arms did not succeed in driving the French from the Peninsula until after five years of stupendous discriminate between the allegiance due to the and heroic exertion. How the commander in the Constitution and that political homage which is field was often thwarted in his designs by civilian awarded to the temporary incumbents of official incompetence in the military direction at London, support of the political authorities, it does not seem to have been any very particular part of the writer's object to show in the present pamphlet, though these topics are not wholly overlooked. And it will not be denied that they constitute one of the elements which largely tended to make the peninsular campaign of Wellington tedious and costly. Under

this head Napier says: "Wellington's campaigns furnish lessons for generals of all nations, but they must always be especial models for British commanders in future continental wars; because he modified and reconciled the great principles of art with the peculiar difficulties which attend generals controlled by the peculiar difficulties which altend generals controlled by politicians who prefer partiamentary intrigue to national interests. An English commander must not trust his fortune. He dare not risk much, however conscious he may be of personal resources, when one disaster will be his ruin at home; his measures must be subordinate to this primary consideration. Welling on's caution, springing from that source, has led friends and foes alike into wrong conclusions as to his system of war: the French call it want of enterprise, timidity; the English have denominated it the Fabian system. These are mere phrases. His system was the same as that of all great generals."

It is not difficult to collate "the peculiar difficulties" which thus attended Wellington, with similar experiences in the career of more than one of our own Generals. For instance, it appears from the testimony of General Burnside. borne before the Committee of Investigation appointed to inquire into the circumstances of the battle of Fredericksburg, that the Administration after a certain date retained Gen. McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac only because Gen. Burnside refused to supersede him. Gen. Burnside says :

"On the 7th or 8th of November I received an order from the President of the United States, directing me to take command of the Army of the Potomac, and also a copy of the order relieving Gen. McClellan from that command. This order was conveyed to me by Gen. Buckingham, who was attached to the War Department. After getting over my surprise, the shock, &c., I told Gen. Buckingham that it was a matter that required very serious thought; that I did not wast the command; that it had been effered to me twice before, and I did not feel that I could take it; I conseeled with two of my staff officers in regard to it for, I should think, an hour and a half. They urged upon me that I had no right, as a soldier, to disobey the order, and that I had already expressed to the Government my unwilliagness to take the command. I told them what my views were with reference to my ability to exercise such views were with reference to my ability to exercise such a command, which views were those I had usreservedly expressed, that I was not competent to command such a large army as this; I had said the same over and over again to the President and Secretary of War; and also that if matters could be satisfactorily arranged with Gen. McClellan I thought he could cammand the Army of the Potomac hetter than any other General in it. But they had studied the subject more than I had, and knew more about their obligations to Gen. McC. ellan than I did.

"There had been some conversation with regard to the removal of Gen. McClellan when he was bringing away his army from before Richmond. The first of these conversa-

army from before Richmond. The first of these conversa-tions with the President and the Secretary of War ec-curred at that time. And then, after Gen. McClellan had got back to Washington, and before the commencement of the Maryland campaign, there was another conversation of the same kind. And on both of these occasions I ex-pressed to the President the opinion that I did not think there was any one who could do as much with that army as Gen. McClellan could, if matters could be so arranged as to remove their objections to him."

Gen. Burnside, it will be seen, distinctly gives his opinion that something more than the military ability of Gen. McClellan was essential to his success as a commander. It was also necessary that he should have the confidence and support of the

"if matters could be satisfactorily arranged with Gen. McClellan he thought that officer could command the Army of the Potomac better than any other General in it." And again, in describing the considerations which had twice induced him to decline the command, he says: " On both of these I expressed to the President the opinion that I did not think there was any one who could do as much with the army as Gen. McClellan could, if matters could be so arranged as to remove their objections to him." It would have been impossible for Gen. Burnside to express more strongly the disadvantages under which Gen. McClellan remained in command of the Army of the Potomae after its withdrawal from Harrison's Landing. No commander can count on the support of superiors who have again and again sought to compass his displacement.

And as "public opinion" pursued Wellington in the Spanish Peninsula, projecting its shadows across the plans of his campaign, so in our present war. We have had frequently to deplore this same disturbing presence, from the day when the "on to Richmond" ory precipitated the first ill-fated advance upon Manassas down to the recent disaster at Fredericksburg. How the voice of popular impatience urged our Generals to make that last unfortunate attack is confessed by Gen. Sumner, when, in his testimony, he spoke as fol-

"I was in favor of crossing the Rappahannock because neither our Government nor our people would be satisfied to have our army to retire from this position or go into winter quarters until we knew the force that was on the other side of the river; and the only way in which we could have that was by going over there and feeling of them."

And so, too, when Gen. Woodbury made representations to Gen. Halleck in favor of delaying the movement of Gen. Burnside's army from Warrenton to Fredericksburg until the pontoons could be forwarded to the latter point, his suggestion found no hearing, simply because it spoke of "delay." He

Gen. Halleck's order to me of the 12th made it apparen the army was preparing to march to Fredericksburg. As to the time when the movement would be made. I never received any information. Fearing, however, that the movement would be precipitate, I went to Gen. Halleck's office and urged him to delay the movement some five days, in order that the necessary preparations might be made to insure its success. To this he replied that he would do no thing to delay for an instant the advance of the army upon Richmond. I rejoined that my suggestion was not intended to cause delay, but rather to prevent it.

But it would be useless to multiply instances in illustration of the analogies which exist between the war of Wellington in the Spanish peninsula and that now waging in our own land. Other points of similitude are designated by Mr. Stille, particularly in regard to the deficiencies of regimental and staff officers, (a matter on which the Prince de Joinville descants at length in his review of Gen. McClellan's operations.) the want of a uniform policy in the Cabinet, the mistakes of Generals, and the embarrassments created by political factions; but for these we must refer our readers to the pamphlet itself. Those who have more leisure will "seek the fountains" in Napier's "Peninsular War" and Gurwood's Despatches of

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.

ADVANCE OF THE UNION FORCES AND A

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS. Gen. Resecrans's army moved on the enemy Decembe 26-Gen. Thomas's grand division on the right, Gen. Mc-Cook's in the centre on the Nolinsville pike, and Gen.

Cook bad a sharp skirmish. The 101st Ohio, of Carlin's brigade, captured one gun and caissen from a Georgia bat tery. Our loss was two killed and five wounded. The troops behaved splendidly. There was also slight skirmishing on the left. December 27th the army pushed on with sharp skirmishing on the right and left. Crittenden lost two killed, twen-

ty-seven wounded, and five prisoners. They killed and rounded some rebels, captured thirty-six Alabama cavalry and captured the bridges on Steward's creek in gallan style. McCook drove Hardee from Triune, which lies due west from Murfreesboro'. The weather was heavy and the troops fatigued. Gen. Negley's and Gen. Rosecrans' divisions now moved to the centre, leaving McCook on the

On Sunday, the 28th, nothing was done, Gen. Rosecran declining to attack on thay day.

The army was in motion at daylight on December 29th Gen. Jeff. C. Davis moved upon Murfreceboro', in advance on the right, on Bully Jack road, several miles north of Triune. Gens. Negley and Rousseau's divisions of Thomas's grand division in the centre and Crittenden's corps on the left, moved down Murfreesboro' and Jeffrson pikes. Wood's and Vancleve's divisions of the latter corps were right and left respectively, while Palmer's division was in

A battle on Stewart's creek was anticipated, but exceptng a duel between Parson's Sixth United States artillery and a rebel battery, at 9 o'clock A. M., to the right of Murfreesboro' pike, crossing the creek, there was no engagement. From ten to one all was quiet, our army crossing Stewart's creek, from right to left, without opposition.

At one o'clock we were within six miles of Murfreesore' on the direct pike, the army still pushing on in splendid style-McCook, with Davis's, Sheridan's, and John son's divisions on the right; Thomas, with Negley's and Rousseau's divisions in the centre : Crittenden, with Wood's and Vancleve's divisions in front, and Palmer in reserve on the left. It was marvellous we were not stubbornly resisted at Stewart's creek.

loubt of a general engagement at Murfreesboro'. Now and then there is a cannon shot and a little skirmishing with cavalry. Gen. Rosecrans says his headquarters will be established near Murfreesboro' this evening. He is now at Stewart's creek, ten miles from Murfreesboro', and all but the receive are far across the creek. The grand battle, if any, will be on Stone's river, at Murfreeaboro'. The day is magnificent. Should the enemy evacuate Mur-

freesboro' we shall pursue rapidly, anticipating a battle

near Shelbyville.

At two o'clock we are anticipating a battle, with some

NEAR MURFREESBORO', (TENN.) DEC. 30. The Fourteenth Army Corps made a general advance resterday, and pushed the rebels back seven or eight miles Collins's brigade of Gen. McCook's corps had a sharp brush with the enemy just beyond Nolinaville. Cannonadng took place for an hour, the enemy wasting considerable ammunition. Our troops reserved their fire until, advancing briskly, by a dexterous flank movement, the 101st Ohio captured one gun and a caiseon. We lost one killed and three wounded. A general engagement is imminent. Our army is sweeping down all the roads to Murfreesboro'. Heavy artillery firing is now heard on the Nolinsville road, where Gen. McCook is engaging the rebel Hardee. The

seather is damp and the ground very heavy. CAMP, TEN MILES FROM MURFREESBORO'.

Gen, Crittendon reports the enemy drawn up in line of battle on the east side of Stone's river. menacing Gen. Rosecrans. He is ordered to form in line of battle, two divisions in front, one in reserve and covering his flanks, and Gens. Negley and Rousseau to close up. Gen. McCook also reports his command on Wilkinson's Creek, seven

Administration. He expresses the opinion that | miles from Murfreesboro'. The enemy is in line of battle on Stone's river, from Murfreesboro' to Franklin pike. A similar disposition of his force is ordered as on Sen. Crittenden's line. It now appears that a great battle will be fought on Stone's river to-morrow, in front of Mur-

A GREAT BATTLE, WITH HEAVY LOSSES.

The following has been received at the War Department rom the Government telegraphic superintendent, who is CLEVELAND, (OHIO.) JAN. 2, 1863

Hon, E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War : The following is just received from Cincionati, dated Murfreesboro', January 1, 1863:

"A terrible battle was fought yesterday. The latest from the field is up to noon. The rebel centre had been broken, and things looked favorable. The losses reported are enormous. Gens. Stanley, Rousseau, and Palmer are wounded, and the rebel Gens. Cheatham and Rains killed."

TWO HOURS LATER FROM THE FIELD.

NEAR MURFREESBORO, DECEMBER 31. Our entire line suffered terribly this morning. Four rements of regulars lost half of their men and all of their commanding officers. The Anderson troop suffered severely. Majors Rosengarten and Ward were killed, and Generals Stanley, Rousseau, and Palmer were wounded

Two o'clack P. M.—Gen. Thomas breaks the rebel cenre and drives the enemy the distance of a mile. rance the entire line, which Gen. Resecrans is personally superintending. One shot killed two of his staff. The Fifteenth Wisconsin lost seven captains.

Gen. Negley's artillery is still mowing the rebels in the entre. Crittenden's left wing has taken the entrench nents at Murfreesboro. The rebel guerillas Cheatham and Raines were killed

THE LATEST-THE REBELS RETREATING NASHVILLE, JAN. 2.—A terrible battle has been fought at

Murfreesboro', involving the severest carnage of the war. The United States forces encountered the rebels on the Oth ultimo near Stone's Creek. After heavy skirminhing on both sides the rebels were driven back. We captured a hundred prisoners, and killed and wounded a large number. Our loss on this occasion was seventy killed and

At daybreak on the 31st the fight was renewed with great fury. Gen. McCook's corps being opposed to Hardee. After desperate fighting, with heavy less on both sides, Gen. McCook retreated two miles. He soon rallied his men, but was again driven back, and at night was four miles this side of the ground occupied in the morning.

The fight continued until ten o'clock at night, at which time we had maintained our position. The Federal loss was very heavy. Among our hilled are: Brig. Gen. Sill; Lieut. Col. Garesche, Chief of Gen. Rosecrans' staff Brig. Gen. Willich, of Indiana; Col. Kell, of the Second Ohio regiment; Col. Shaffer, Acting Brigadier General; Col. Farmer, of the Fifteenth Kentucky regiment; Col-Jones, of the Twenty-fourth Ohio ; Lieut. Col. Cotton, of the Sixth Kentucky ; Lieut. Col. Jones, Thirty-ninth Icdiana; Major Carpenter, of the Nineteenth Regulars; Major Rosengarten, of Philadelphia, (Anderson Troop:) Capt. Garrett, of the Nineteenth Illinois; Col. Carpenter, of the Eighteenth Wisconsin Battery; Lieut, Col. McKee, of the Fifteenth Wisconsin.

Among the wounded are: Brig. Gen. E. M. Kirk. o linois; Brig. Gen. Wood, of Indiana; Brig. Gen. Van Cleve, of Minnesota; Col. Cassale, of Ohio; Major Gen. Rosseau, of Kentucky ; Lieut. Col. Berry, Fifth Kentucky Major Slemmer, Sixteenth Regulars; Major King, Fifteenth Regulars, and many others.

The Twenty-first, Twenty-fifth, and Thirty-fifth Illinois regiments lost two-thirds of their numbers, and the Fifteenth and Thirty-eighth Illinois one-half; the One-Hun. dred-and-first Ohio lost 125 men; the Thirty-eighth Indiana lost about the same number.

The total number of killed and wounded is estimated at twenty-five hundred. The rebel loss exceeds ours. Gen. J. E. Raines was killed; Gen. Cheatham was wounded and taken prisoner.

We have captured five hundred prisoners, among whom are the following rebel commissioned officers: Msjor J. J. Franklin, Thirtieth Arkansas; Capt. W. E. Johnson, Second Arkansas; Capt. J. R. Engle, Second Arkansas;

Capt. S. C. Stone, First Tennessee Cavalry. of January 1st. Cannonsding was heard at Nashville at ten o'clock A. M. Wood's and VanCleve's divisions were in Murfreesboro' driving the evemy, who were in full

Many buildings have been taken in this city for hespital urposes. Great numbers of the wounded are now being rought in.

LOCAL MATTERS.

OBSERVANCES OF NEW YEAR'S DAY .- The genia veather of Thursday was most propitious for the inte change of those civilities which, in accordance with custom, marked the advent of the new year. The sombre clouds which had draped the sky on the preceding day fled with the dying year, and the cheerful sunshine robed its successor in hues of light and beauty.

The day was generally observed as a holyday. The Excutive Departments, the navy yard, the arsenal, the bankng houses, and most of the larger commercial houses and prominent places of business were closed, and during the entire day our principal thoroughfares were crowded with multitudes of people of all ages, sexes, and conditions of life, each and all seeming bent on the enjoyment of the feetivities of the day according to their various tastes and fancies. The general quiet and good order which prevailed throughout the city were not the least pleasing features of

The Executive Mansion was of course the great centre of attraction, and thither thousands flocked at an early hour, and long before the gates were thrown open to the public. In anticipation of the masses of people that would be in attendance, such police arrangements were made as proved effective in preventing the slightest disorder or confusion. A military guard from one of the Peonsylvania regiments doing provost duty in this city and a strong force of the Metropolitan Police were stationed at the perties of the Mansion, the policemen forming a line through the passage ways to the reception room

The members of the Diplomatic Corps, in full costum oald their respects to President LINCOLN and his excel lent wife about ten o'clock, and, after exchanging the salutations of the season, were followed by the Juiges of the Supreme Court and of the Court of Claims, and by the officers of the Army and Navy in full dress. All the interviews were of the most cordial and agreeable character.

At noon the doors were opened to the immense crowd of persons who pressed forward in good order to pay their respects to the President. The ceremony of introduction was performed by Marshal Lamon. The President received his numerous visiters with great affability, giving each a cordial grasp of the hand, and cecasionally dropping a few pleasant words to some of his more intimate friende

Secretaries SEWARD, CHASE, and STANTON, and Attorney General Bates, also received and entertained large numbers of visiters, including many distinguished personages in civil, diplomatic, military, and naval etreles. Secretary WELLES and Postmaster BLAIR had no receptions, in onsequence of recent deaths in their families.

Mayor WALLACH likewise received and entertained his friends in elegant style. Beside the countless throngs that paid their respects to him, the entire body of the Metrocolltan Police visited his hospitable residence in the

Major B. B. FRENCH, Commissioner of Public Buildings; District Attorney CARRINGTON; City Postmaster CLEPHANE, and other officials, also had receptions, and ceived the compliments of the season from numerous wiends, among whom they dispensed their elegant hospitalities.

Many of our private citizens throw open their doors, and received numerous "ca.ls." Sumptuous repasts were spread by many of them for the entertainment of their